

Harper Center Bulletin

Williamstown Council on Aging

May 2012 Newsletter

OK, so the May flowers are out, big deal, they have been out since March. OK, I'm kidding, but there are a lot of species of flora and fauna out there in bloom which should only be appearing now. A by product of the warm winter I'm sure.

I wonder if the Mayans predicted this?

Golf season has begun in earnest and balls are flying all over the joint. As you're reading this, I am on vacation and off somewhere hitting a few balls. You can bank on it! And speaking about hitting a few balls, how about that hurting the Yankees put on the Red Sox at Fenway last weekend? Did you really think it would go un-observed in this bulletin? C'mon now, can't let that one pass. Would you? But we did hang that Sox pennant in the main hall...

Just want to remind everyone that there are a couple of interesting items for consideration on the warrant for Town Meeting this year. Some are related to efforts by the Williamstown Affordable Housing Committee to set up a trust fund with cash from the Community Preservation Committee. It will enable them to have a ready reserve of money which will allow the ability to act upon affordable housing opportunities-purchase property for example-quickly as the need arises. Another item will be the request for funding to do the ground work study for the addition at Proprietors Field. In the end, we'd like everyone to appear and vote yea or nay. Participation is the hallmark of democracy!

In May, the Friendship Club supports...

We're looking for the gift of canned goods, un-dented and with good dates to support the local food pantry. The reality is that in an affluent society, there are a lot of people who need food and who have food security issues. There is absolutely no good reason why someone should be hungry and it makes no sense at all why this should be. So we'll make a small contribution toward a big problem. We hope that everyone who comes thru here next month will bring a canned good, or three-they do buy one and get one offers at every store right? And we hope to drop the biggest can offering of all time on their doorstep. What do you think?

Harper Center
Bulletin # 210

May 1st, 2012

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Williamstown
Council on Aging
World Headquarters is located in the Harper Center at 118 church street in town. Call us at 458.8250, fax 458.5156 or email; bogrady@williamstown.net. We're open for adventure Monday thru Friday, 8:00 to 4:00 and on Sunday at 11:00 for lunch.



This performance will be a blast and something that we simply haven't tried! There are still a couple participant slots left so give it a whirl!



INISH

I think it was back in the dark days of last winter, that we first had a hint that some Irish dancers from Williams College might come to Harper to offer a brief performance. Our friends, the Norton's, were talking with their friends from Williams and it appeared that we might have an opportunity for a show here someday-and guess what; someday has arrived! At 1:15 on Friday afternoon May 4th INISH, the Irish dance company from Williams College will be here in the Harper Center to perform a selection of dances choreographed for the 2012 dance season at Williams. It has taken a long year to devise the dances you'll see; the INISH website says that their mission is to "meld traditional Irish and contemporary dance" Original choreographed performances folks. This is a fantastic gift! The company's membership includes students and community members and they're coming here to entertain us. How about that!

The Plays of Our Lives

A lot of people have expressed an interest in writing their memoirs or being involved with a reflective writing process. Here's your chance. Beginning Thursday afternoon May 3rd and running for eight weeks, a group of locals will meet here at the Harper Center for about an hour and a half weekly to write a play, or perhaps several individual plays, each based upon the participants life story in the community they lived in. Individual plays will be about 10 minutes long, or perhaps longer, participant preference rules-and group plays a bit longer. The first sessions-approximately four weeks worth-will be dedicated to brainstorming and developing characters, the last four to actually writing the play. Then the performance, either read by the playwrights themselves or some professionals brought in for the roles. Our facilitators, Ed Sedarbaum and Linda White have years of experience behind them are currently involved with the "Main Street Stage" company. Join us!!!

Re-inventing Harper

Well, it had to happen sooner or later. The Harper Center was built in the 1970's, opened in 1980 and served us well for all these years as she stands. Of course, time changes everything and buildings, like people, do age. In May, Harper will get her first ever face lift and some significant changes to the building. The leaky big glass windows in the main hall will be replaced with a half wall and smaller windows. We'll lose some light, but the place will be warmer in the winter as the leaky windows will be gone-and we'll be cooler in summer because we're installing air conditioning! How about that! Definitely a positive thing which will certainly enhance everyone's visit-not to mention haul the building into the 21st Century! There will be disruptions in programs- but we'll manage. Especially with the end product, right? Stay tuned for more

Can you hear me now?

For awhile we have heard about the need for a local audiologist who would be present in the area to offer communication-hearing, speech and so on- services for those who need this type of help. Yeah, yeah, we know; absolutely nobody here has difficulty hearing or understanding what their neighbor is saying, right? But we all know that it isn't so, right? OK, we're agreed on that point. Anyway, on Tuesday May 1st, Stephen White of the new Berkshire Hearing and Speech Clinic will be here at the Harper Center at 12:30 to present a program introducing the clinic. Berkshire Speech and Hearing consults, evaluates and treats a whole host of communication problems which include hearing loss among other conditions. They offer services including, yes, hearing aide repair. So for those of you who have wanted this resource, know you have a hearing problem and want to meet someone new, maybe think that you have one or know that your neighbor has-this program is for you. Of course there will be food first-pizza at noon. So, sign up, you know where right?

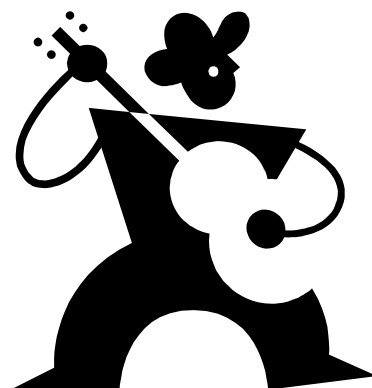
Musician David Malachino

On May 15, we've teamed up with our friend Ida Patella from Berkshire Housing to bring musician David Malachino to the Harper Center to entertain us for the afternoon. Now, I don't know Dave, he's never been here but folks who have seen him and heard him play say that he's pretty good. OK, we'll take it at that. I spoke with him and he says that he plays a selection of tunes from the 50's, the 60's, Country, Folk, Neil Diamond, fun stuff like that. Audience participation music is a strong point, I'm told. Good, this is the kind of music we like from a solo guitar player, right?

Anyway, he'll be here to entertain us and before that performance, we'll just have to eat- so how about some chicken with cornbread and gravy, salad, beverages-down home stuff! You know where the sign up is! Lunch at noon, music at 12:30!

Friendship Club May- eaters choice banquet

The stars lined up right for the Friendship Club in May. The monthly Club meeting is on the 8th, the annual Spring luncheon will be on the 22nd at the Williams Inn, and the Friendship Club Bingo session will be on the 29th, right after Memorial Day. Let's talk about the bingo day for a minute. A couple of times recently we've used the occasion to offer special meals, the second Hot Dog Extravaganza in March comes to mind- since it's a Tuesday and we're approaching summer, we thought that we would offer a meal before the game this time too but are a little stumped on the menu. We don't want to do hot dogs and are looking for a couple hints. If you have any real food wishes [you may NOT have lobster or scallops, sorry] let us know. Menu will be announced at the meeting on the 8th.





**Williamstown
Council on Aging**

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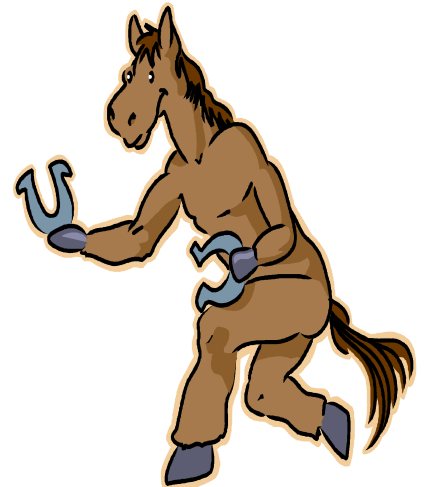
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A few people got together at the end of April in our first attempt at a monthly morning coffee hour. It went OK, we had hoped for a few more people but as a starter, it was fine. We had coffee cake but we also talked about the possibility of doing an actual breakfast...we'll see. Let's meet this month on the 21st for eggs and toast and talk about it.

The walking group has persevered thru all sorts of weather and now much warmer. Hooray! Marion and the walkers strut out of here every Thursday morning at 9:00 for a walk about the 'hood. Join them ! Good conversation and good exercise!



**On the web at
www.williamstown.net**



Page four news and notes

Our foot care magician, Serena Merrill, will be in the house on Tuesday May 15 to work wonders on your feet, clipping nails, reducing calluses and massaging the soreness out. Unfortunately, the May dates are filled and there are only two open slots for appointments in June so hurry!

For those of you who have found yourselves to be challenged by the very technical stuff which comprises our health care insurance paperwork, our health care insurance guru, SHINE Counselor Peg Jenks, will be in the house on Wednesday May 16th at 10:30 to help. Appointments are not necessary but appreciated; Peg is also available for individual consultation outside of normal hours by contacting us in the COA office at 458-8250.

The monthly Blood Pressure Clinic, sponsored by our friends from Sweetbrook, will take place on Tuesday May 8th, at noon immediately preceding the Friendship Club meeting. Last month there was a bit of a glitch and the clinic was held on a Friday-which also turned out to be a good day. For the moment, we're back on Tuesdays but it's good to have a fall back day!

Finally, the monthly Brown Bag, sponsored by the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts will be at Harper for pick up or delivery on Friday May 25th. Brown Bag is literally a brown paper sack filled with shelf stable foods and fresh fruits and veggies in season. Interested? Contact us here at Harper at 458-8250, and we'll help you thru the minimal applications process!